

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 SS-15

SP-02 NSC-05 ( ISO ) W

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R 301220Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3675

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 0728

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: JO, BTRA, OVIP, CVIS

SUBJ: TIME MIDDLE EAST "NEWSTOUR" FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

1. SUMMARY: DURING THEIR SEVENTEEN HOUR OVERNIGHTER IN AMMAN, TIME, INC. NEWSTOUR GROUP ATTENDED ECONOMIC BRIEFING GIVEN BY CROWN PRINCE HASSAN, AUDIENCE WITH KING HUSSEIN, AND DINNER HOSTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, SAYD RIFAI.

2. THE CP BROUGHT WITH HIM TO BRIEFING SEVERAL MINISTERS, ECONOMIC ADVISORS AND PROFESSORS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND GENERALLY BE AVAILABLE TO THE VISITORS. AFTER A ONE-HOUR INFORMAL PRESENTATION, THE GROUP ADJOURNED FOR AN INFORMAL RECEPTION WHERE THE VISITORS MINGLED WITH THE JORDANIANS AND WERE ABLE TO PRIVATELY PURSUE TOPICS OF INDIVIDUAL INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

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3. THE EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER REMAINED WITH GROUP THROUGH ENTIRE SCHEDULE AND WAS ABLE TO HEAR THEIR IMPRESSIONS AND OPINIONS. THEY MADE IT CLEAR AT THE START THAT THEY PREFERRED TO KEEP VISIT POLITICALLY ORIENTED RATHER THAN ECONOMIC. MOST CONVERSATIONS CENTERED AROUND STATUS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN JORDAN AND THE PLO. THE GROUP HAD MET WITH SEVERAL PLO REPRESENTATIVES IN BEIRUT PRIOR TO VISITING AMMAN, AND SEEMED TO BE IMPRESSED WITH THE PLO IN GENERAL. WHETHER THESE FEELINGS WERE RESULT OF CAREFUL SELECTION BY TIME PERSONNEL OF PLO REPRESENTATIVES, OR WHETHER US MEDIA INFLUENCED THEIR FEELINGS PRIOR TO THE TRIP IS UNKNOWN. BUT MOST OF THE GROUP APPEARED TO FEEL THE PLO IS READY AND ABLE TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN ANY ARAB-ISRAELI SOLUTION. MANY OF BUSINESSMEN DISPLAYED THIS ATTITUDE IN THEIR QUESTIONS TO KING AND JORDANIAN AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS. OTHER MAJOR TOPICS OF INTEREST WITHIN THIS CONTEXT WERE PRESIDENT SADAT'S 90-DAY ULTIMATUM, AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT RABAT.

4. DURING THE AUDIENCE, KING QUICKLY WENT THROUGH JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN HISTORY, EVENTS OF 1970, AND THEN SPENT MOST OF HIS PRESENTATION ON RABAT DECISIONS AND PRESENT EFFORTS. GROUP CAME AWAY WITH THE FIRM BELIEF THAT KING HUSSEIN WILL NOT MAKE EFFORT AT SOLUTION OF PROBLEM UNLESS SPECIFICALLY ASKED, AND INTENDS TO PLAY MINOR "SUPPORT-OF-PLO" ROLE. KING'S REMARKS COVERED HIS FRUSTRATION WITH FAILURE OF US EFFORTS THUS FAR IN RESOLVING NO PEACE-NO WAR SITUATION. IN RESPONDING TO QUESTION OF SADAT'S ULTIMATUM ON NEED TO HAVE PROGRESS BEFORE APRIL/MAY 1975, HUSSEIN EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE MOMENTUM ENGENDERED IN EARLY 1974 HAD BEEN LOST, AND ASKED GROUP TO DO WHAT THEY COULD TO SEE THAT MOMENTUM REGAINED BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

5. VISIT PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR HEINZ AND MALLOTT, PRESIDENTS OF HEINZ AND FMC CORPORATIONS RESPECTIVELY, TO DISCUSS ROLE OF AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL IN JORDAN WITH CROWN PRINCE AND AID REPRESENTATIVE.

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6. IN GENERAL, VISITORS WERE IMPRESSED WITH KING HUSSEIN, CROWN PRINCE, AND THE MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS WITH WHOM THEY MET. THEY LIKED THE CITY, THE PEOPLE, AND SEVERAL REMARKED THAT JORDAN WAS A WELCOME CHANGE FROM DAMASCUS, WHERE THE NIGHT BEFORE THEY HAD "EATEN SOCIALISM FOR DINNER".

7. AMBASSADOR'S BRIEFING OF GROUP CANCELLED BECAUSE

OF LATE ARRIVAL FROM DAMASCUS WHERE THEY HAD TARRIED  
WAITING FOR ARAFAT. HE MET INDIVIDUALLY WITH MEMBERS  
OF GROUP AT DINNER HELD BY PRIME MINISTER AND LATER  
AT THEIR HOTEL. IMPRESSIONS GAINED REFLECT THOSE NOTED  
ABOVE. GROUP SEEMED SPLIT BETWEEN MANY WHO WERE CLEARLY  
IMPRESSED BY CASE FOR PLO WHICH HAD BEEN EFFECTIVELY  
PUT TO THEM IN BEIRUT, AND SMALLER, BUT NO LESS COMMITTED  
PRO-ISRAELI GROUP. JORDANIAN EFFORT AT CREATING A SENSE  
OF MODERATION AND BALANCE SEEMED LOST IN INTENSITIES  
REFLECTED BY BOTH OF THESE GROUPS. PICKERING

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